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DECEMBER, 1996
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10

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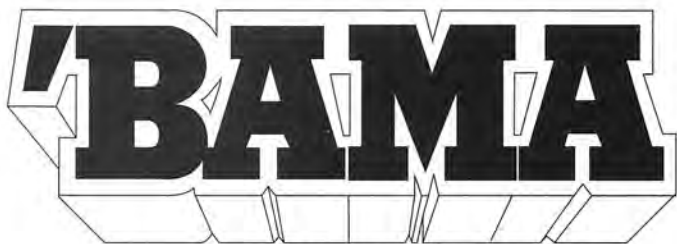
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Kent Gidley Photo



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BAMA SCORECARD

Junior College Recruiting

Junior college football players who are eligible for mid-year transfer (that is, on schedule to graduate at the end of either the fall or the spring semester), may begin signing scholarships December 18. Alabama has one scholarship left over from last year (made available when defensive lineman Kenny Smith of North Jackson High School did not qualify academically) and could use it. Bama can also use one or more of its 24 scholarships for the 1997 signing period for junior college signees.

The word from East Mississippi Junior College in Scooba is that Bama is involved with three players, all of whom are originally from Alabama.

Reportedly eligible for mid-year transfer is running back James Johnson, a 6-1, 228-pounder originally from Eight Mile. Additionally, Johnson has three years of eligibility remaining since he was redshirted one season at East Mississippi.

Other Alabama natives playing at East Mississippi who rank high on the list of top junior college prospects are receiver Bobby Collins (6-5, 245) of York and wide receiver Quincy Jackson (6-1, 180) of Brundidge.

The Alliance

With the bowl season closing in, there is an interest in how the Bowl Alliance will work this year. Ohio State of the Big Ten and Arizona State of the Pac-10 seem likely to be in the Rose Bowl, which is not yet part of the Alliance, and that game could settle the national championship.

However, the Alliance (made up of the Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East and Big 12, as well as independent Notre Dame) could again have the national championship game.

This year the Sugar Bowl gets to pick first and second for its teams and will take the two highest rated squads from the Alliance field. The Fiesta Bowl gets picks three and five, while the Orange Bowl gets four and six. Big Ten and Pac 10 teams not in the Rose Bowl are eligible for Alliance Bowl spots if they meet the criteria.

The criteria for gaining an Alliance spot are having at least eight regular season victories and being ranked among the nation's top 12 teams in either the Associated Press rankings or in the poll of coaches conducted by CNN/USA Today.

Selection day is December 8, the day after the SEC and Big 12 championship games.

SEC teams not selected for the Alliance will be picked in order by the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, the Outback Bowl in Tampa, the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, and the Weedeater Bowl in Shreveport.

High Rankings

As expected, the Alabama women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody has been ranked among the nation's best in pre-season ratings. In addition to being picked to win the SEC Championship at the annual

SEC Media Days, the Tide was picked number two in the national pre-season polls conducted by the Associated Press and by USA Today. Right off the bat the Tide was tested by going to Stanford to meet the nation's top-ranked team in the season-opener.

Shalonda Enis a first team Kodak All-America as a junior last year, was one of five women named pre-season All-America by the Associated Press and is also one of 10 women named by the Atlanta Tipoff Club as pre-season finalist for the Naismith National Player of the Year.

Ezell Out

Brittney Ezell, a junior and returning starting point guard for the Alabama women's basketball team, was suspended for the Stanford game because of a violation of an unspecified team academic rule.

Exhibition Success

Exhibition games don't count in the standings and often don't mean much since frequently coaches use them merely to look at their team against outside competition.

But Alabama's 99-86 win over Marathon Oil—a team that routed Georgia Tech and also posted wins over Clemson, Auburn, Vanderbilt and Georgia—may have turned some heads, particularly since Tide star Eric Washington played only 21 minutes, only five in the second half.

Washington was selected for the Pre-season All-SEC Team at SEC Media Days, while Bama was picked to finish third in the Western Division, behind Arkansas and Auburn.

Hoopfest Tickets

The Mulligan Holiday Hoopfest, in which Auburn will play Murray State (coached by former Tider Mark Gottfried) at 11:30 a.m. CST and Alabama will play Virginia Commonwealth (coached by former Auburn Coach Sonny Smith) at approximately 1:50 p.m. CST on Saturday, December 21, is raising funds for the Mulligan Youth Foundation and the Birmingham Tip-Off Club Foundation. Tickets are available at TicketLink in Birmingham (205) 715-6000 or 1-800-277-1700.

Gymnast Lost

The NCAA keeps detailed statistics on sports injuries. It should come as no surprise that most serious sports injuries occur in football. But the second most dangerous sport for injury might be something of a surprise. It's gymnastics. And it has come to Alabama this year.

The Alabama gymnastics team (see Page 16), the defending NCAA Champions, lost the services of All-America Shay Murphy for the 1996-97 season when the junior tore her left anterior cruciate ligament. Murphy, considered one of the Tide's most consistent and dependable gymnasts, injured her knee during vaulting drills in practice. Dr. Les Fowler was to perform corrective surgery to repair the damage.

"Obviously we will miss having an athlete of Shay's experience and talent in our lineup this year," Coach Sarah Patterson said. "Shay is one of our most consistent and dependable athletes and her floor routines are crowd favorites, so she will certainly be missed this season. What makes this injury even more devastating is that Shay, who worked very hard to earn All-American status last season, came back in exceptional shape this fall with a tremendous amount of desire. She had added several new tricks to her repertoire and was on the verge of a very good season. In essence she will be our first recruit for the 1998 season.

"Shay's injury was just one of those things in sports," Patterson said. "It happened on a vault take off. She didn't do anything wrong, she didn't make a mistake, it was just one of those things." The Canton, Michigan, native was a integral part of the Crimson Tide's uneven bars and floor exercise lineup during its march to the 1996 title. She earned second team All-America last season on the balance beam. This season, she was slated for duty on floor, beam and vault.

Summer Success

Alabama second baseman Joe Caruso played for the Nevada (Missouri) Griffons of the Jayhawk League in summer National Baseball Congress competition. For his performance in the NBC World Series in Wichita, Kansas, he was named to the league's All-America team.

December Baseball Camp

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells will host a holiday baseball camp December 27-28 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The camp is for players aged 10-18 (including high school seniors) and costs \$100. Campers must bring their own equipment. For registration information call (205) 348-8858.

Ending On High Note

In the perfect ending to what had been a less-than-perfect fall, the Alabama men's golf team won its final event of the fall, capturing the championship (by a healthy five-stroke margin) of the Stanford Invitational. The field included 17 teams, including Southeastern Conference squads LSU, Tennessee and Auburn.

The win marked Alabama's first tournament victory since the fall of 1994 in Tennessee's Tournament of Champions.

Pacing the Crimson Tide was freshman Lee Davis. Davis, playing in only his second career collegiate tournament, shot a 69 in the final round to finish third overall in the 54-hole event. Joining him in the top 10 was Allan MacDonald, who tied for eighth, while Mayson Petty finished tied for 11th.

Bama's victory made up for the disappointment in playing in the "Tigerless Stanford Invitational," as it came to be called. Tiger Woods was expected to be back for his junior season this year, but has turned professional.

Alabama competed in four fall events.

Before it won at Stanford the Tide's best finish had been seventh at the Tennessee tournament, something of a surprise since this had been expected to be one of Head Coach Dick Spivey's strongest teams.

Alabama's clubs will rest from competition now until its first spring appearance, the Gator Invitational in Gainesville, Florida, February 8-9. The college golf season is a long one, beginning in September and continuing through the NCAA Championships in May with an intermission in December and January.

Vadden Ranked

Bama men's golfer Patrick Vadden, a senior from Louisville, Kentucky, is ranked number 41 nationally in the latest edition of the Rolex Collegiate Golf Rankings. The final rankings of the fall season, which are released by the College Golf Foundation, will be made December 11.

Women's Success

The Alabama women's golf team of Coach Betty Palmer had an excellent fall, and so did new Tider Kathryn Cusick. Cusick, who transferred to Alabama from Florida this year, collected her second tournament championship as Bama closed out the fall season in the Pat Bradley Invitational in Miami. Cusick closed with a three-under-par 69 to win the 54-hole event. Cusick also won in Bama's opening event of the year, the Lady Seminole in Tallahassee, leading the Crimson Tide to team victory in that tournament.

Cusick was ranked 36th in the nation prior to her win in Miami, while the Tide, which finished in the top 10 in all four of its tournaments, was ranked 18th prior to the Pat Bradley. As a team Bama played well in Miami, but suffered a loss to Kentucky in a playoff for the team championship.

Swaps With Florida

While Kathryn Cusick has done very well for Alabama's women's golf team after transferring from Florida, some Gators' women's teams are doing pretty well with transfers from Alabama, too.

Florida's women won the SEC cross country championship with former Tider Becki Wells taking the individual title. Wells was a former SEC champion running for Alabama.

And the Lady Gators' volleyball team is ranked second in the nation in great part because of the play of Nina Foster, a former All-America at Alabama.

Fast Times

Alabama freshman swimmer Donald Morrison is off to a fast start for the Crimson Tide. Morrison swam a :45.07 in the 100-meter freestyle at LSU, the fastest time in the nation in college swimming this year in that premier event.

On the women's side, freshman Jackie Slingerland posted a 10:13.01 time in the 1000-meter freestyle against LSU, making her the 10th fastest swimmer in Alabama history in that event. She has a bit to go until she's number one on the list, though. Laurence Bensimon set the mark at 9:46.52 in 1985, the year Alabama won the only SEC Championship not won by Florida.

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Sophomore Keri Coy also made it onto the all-time top 10 list against LSU. Coy posted 2:20.74 in the 200 breaststroke, the ninth best Bama time in that event.

The Bama men were ranked 24th and the women 12th in the latest national polls.

Soccer Up And Down

Alabama's up-and-down women's soccer team had a big up just before the SEC Tournament when Bama downed Auburn to get into the six-team tournament. But then, despite playing well, Alabama fell to Georgia, 3-2, in the opening tournament game. That left Bama at 9-9-2 on the season.

The game was the final one for Tide senior goal-keeper Amy Pseja, but an up-side was that Pseja and striker Ashley Kirkland earned All-SEC.

Men's Tennis Success

The men's tennis team of Coach Joey Rivé is ranked 25th going into December as the Tide has completed fall play. Bama's last action came in the Rolex Region III Indoor Championships with sophomore Ariel Rivero having an excellent showing for the Tide. Competing in the championship flight draw of 128 players, Rivero made it to the round of 16 before falling to the tournament's fifth seed.

Freshman Marc Urbainczyk had an excellent fall, an 8-1 record with the one loss coming at the hands of the nation's 16th ranked player.

Women's Tennis Success

The Alabama women's tennis team put the cap on a successful fall season. Sophomore Baili Camino, ranked number 23 in the pre-season poll received bids into the main draw of both collegiate tennis' fall grand slam events. It marks the first time that an Alabama player has received a bid into the main draw of a grand slam. In the National Claycourt Championship, her first tourney of the season, Camino made it the semifinals, unseating two players ranked in the nation's top 15 and before falling in the semifinals to the nation's number six player. Camino also earned a bid into the main draw of the Riviera All-America Championship. Camino finished the fall season at 7-5, and nine of 12 opponents were ranked.

Sophomore Whitney Dill and freshman Dominique Glinzler earned a bid into the doubles qualifying round of the season's second grand slam event, the Riviera. Glinzler also earned a bid into the singles qualifying draw.

Sophomore Amanda Ballinger went undefeated during the fall turning in a 10-0 mark and winning the "B" draw of the SEC Fall Coaches Championship and the Roberta Alison Fall Classic.

Alabama starts the spring season January 29.

Butler To Illinois

Barbara Butler, who has served as assistant sports information for men's basketball the past two years, has taken that same position at Illinois. Butler, an Alabama graduate, had served in Bama's sports information office for eight years, including work as a student assistant.



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Early Signing Period Pays Off

by Kirk McNair

Men's basketball and baseball have success getting new players signed

Halfway through the early signing period, which was to end November 20, things looked good for Alabama on a number of fronts. The one-week early signing period enables coaches and prospects in most sports (football is the notable exception) to get the recruiting process out of the way before the prospects have played their final year of high school or junior college ball.

While a large number of signees can be expected when final returns are in, primary interest is on men's basketball. And it appears that Coach David Hobbs has had another good start to the recruiting year.

Alabama has added three newcomers to men's basketball in the early period. They are: Neil Ashby is a 6-9, 190-pound forward at Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia, who was considering Georgia, Connecticut, Clemson, Tennessee and Louisville before picking the Tide over Georgia. As a junior he averaged 21 points, 8.2 rebounds, six blocked shots and four assists for Coach Michael Robinson. He was ranked among the top five prospects in Georgia this year.

Ashby said one reason he picked Alabama was his friendship with current Tide freshman Alfred Moss of Newnan, Georgia, among many. However, he may not sign in the early period. Last year he averaged 16 points, eight rebounds, seven blocked shots and four assists.

He said he had the necessary grade point average in core courses to be eligible, but only recently took a national standardized test for the first time.

Bama also reached into Georgia to grab another top five prospect, point guard Tarik London of Beach High School in Savannah. The finalists for London included Clemson and Georgia.

London, who is academically eligible, is a 6-1, 180-pounder who has been a four-year starter. Last year he led Coach James German's squad to a 30-4 record and a runner-up spot in the state. As a junior he averaged 18 points and nine assists.

Bama's other early signee was no surprise. Terrance Martin, a 6-3 guard for Tuscaloosa Central, had announced early that he would sign with the Tide. Martin, who was most valuable player in two summer basketball camps in Birmingham last summer, picked

Bama over Auburn, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Arkansas-Little Rock. Players don't post big numbers in Coach Roosevelt Sanders' controlled (and successful) system, but Martin averaged 12.6 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.6 assists in leading Central to the sub-state championship game against eventual state champion Birmingham West End. He is an excellent student (3.34 grade point average), one reason he attracted attention from Ivy League schools, but he has not yet taken a standardized test.

There is a possibility the Alabama men's basketball team could add one or more players before the early period was completed.

Best bet appeared to be Francisco Elson, a 7-0, 230-pound center at Kilgore Junior College in Texas. As a freshman for Coach Phil Shumaker he averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game. Elson is a native of The Netherlands and he was reportedly consulting with his mother in Rotterdam before signing a scholarship. Cincinnati was also involved with Elson.

Bama is also still involved with the player considered the top prospect in Alabama, but Tyrus Boswell, a 6-8, 230-pound power forward at Mountain Brook in Birmingham was not expected to sign in the early period. Boswell, who may have to attend a prep school or junior college before beginning his major college career, had been considering Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn and Alabama-Birmingham. As a junior he averaged 24.5 points, 12.5 rebounds, five blocked shots and three assists per game for Coach Lex Lazalik.

Bama was also involved with one of the nation's top-rated players, another Georgia star. Jumaime Jones, a 6-7, 190-pound forward at Mitchell-Baker High School in Camilla, Georgia, was making a recruiting visit to Alabama on the final weekend before the end of the early signing period. As a junior he averaged 28.5 points and 14 rebounds per game. Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina State and Tulane are his other finalists.

Those players not signed in the early period will be eligible to sign in the late period, April 9-May 15.

The Tide women's basketball program of Coach Rick Moody had only one early signee, but it was a good one, the state's top-ranked girl player. Yalika Barnes is a 5-8 guard-forward from Carver High School in Montgomery. She has been playing basketball since she was an eight-year-old third grade student.

Although she has played forward and guard for Coach Michelle Simmons, she is slated for the perimeter at Alabama.

As a junior she averaged 19.4 points, 9.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 2.5 blocked shots, and 5.3 steals. Despite the good scoring numbers, Yalika is considered to be strongest as a defensive player. She reportedly has a vertical leap of 40 inches. Last summer she played for the Alabama Stars, an AAU team that won the girls' junior national championship. She picked Alabama over Georgia and Auburn, among others.

The results of all sports recruiting are not in, but it's obvious that Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells wants to keep the Tide in the national championship picture. Wells was expecting to sign as many as a dozen new players in the early period, and seven had been announced mid-way through the signing period. They are:

Major Allred, a 6-3, 215-pound first baseman and outfielder for Coach Phillip Loden at McAdory High School. He led McAdory to the 1995 Class 5A championship. A left-handed hitter, he batted .415 with six home runs and 27 runs batted in. He also had a 4-2 record as a pitcher with an earned run average of 0.35 and 46 strikeouts in 40 innings.

Sam Bozanich, a 5-10, 185-pound second baseman at North High School in Bakersfield, California, where he is considered the top middle infielder in the state and one of the best in the nation. As a junior for Coach Tony Silver he hit .390 with four home runs and 33 runs batted in, led his team in runs scored (32) and stolen bases (18).

Jamie Brown is a 6-1, 200-pound right-handed pitcher for Meridian (Mississippi) Community College. Last year he played at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in Florida, where he was a perfect 11-0 with a 1.99 ERA. In 77 innings he had 77 strikeouts and only 34 bases on balls and was third team All-America. He prepped for Coach Jerry Boatner at West Lauderdale High School near Meridian, where he was 12-3 with a 1.90 ERA as a senior, striking out 140, walking only 34.

Jack Cust is a 6-2, 195-pound first baseman and outfielder for Coach Tom Gambino at Immaculata High School in Flemington, New Jersey. He has a career prep batting average of .573, 16 home runs and 77 runs batted in. As a junior he hit .621 with eight home runs and 39 runs batted in. He also had 48 runs, 12 doubles, two triples and walked 37 times.

B.J. Green is a 6-2, 205-pound right-handed pitcher for Coach Barry Blake at Gardendale High School. He is considered the top prospect in Alabama. As a junior he posted a 5-2 record with a sparkling 1.51 ERA. His fast ball is clocked at over 90 miles per hour, one reason he struck out 104 batters in 56 innings and averaged 13 strikeouts per seven-inning game. He twice struck

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out 19 batters in a seven-inning game and had one no-hitter.

Paul Phillips is a 6-0, 180-pound catcher for Coach Scott Berry at Meridian Community College is a cousin of Bama third baseman Andy Phillips. He is also a prep and junior college teammate of Tide signee Jamie Brown. Although he has pitched and caught at Meridian, he will be a catcher at Alabama. He batted .369 with 10 home runs and 51 runs batted in as a freshman. As a pitcher he was 4-0 with a 1.07 ERA. He led Meridian to a runner-up finish in last year's National Junior College World

Series. He was a member of the 1994 state championship team at West Lauderdale, where he batted .509 with seven home runs and 50 runs batted in as a senior.

Jason Smith is another member of the Meridian Community College team, a 6-3, 190-pound shortstop. He's originally from Demopolis, where he played for Coach James Moody. Last year as a junior college freshman he batted .318 with 46 runs batted in and was named All-Mississippi-Louisiana Conference. As a senior at Demopolis he hit .387 with seven doubles, three triples and five stolen bases.

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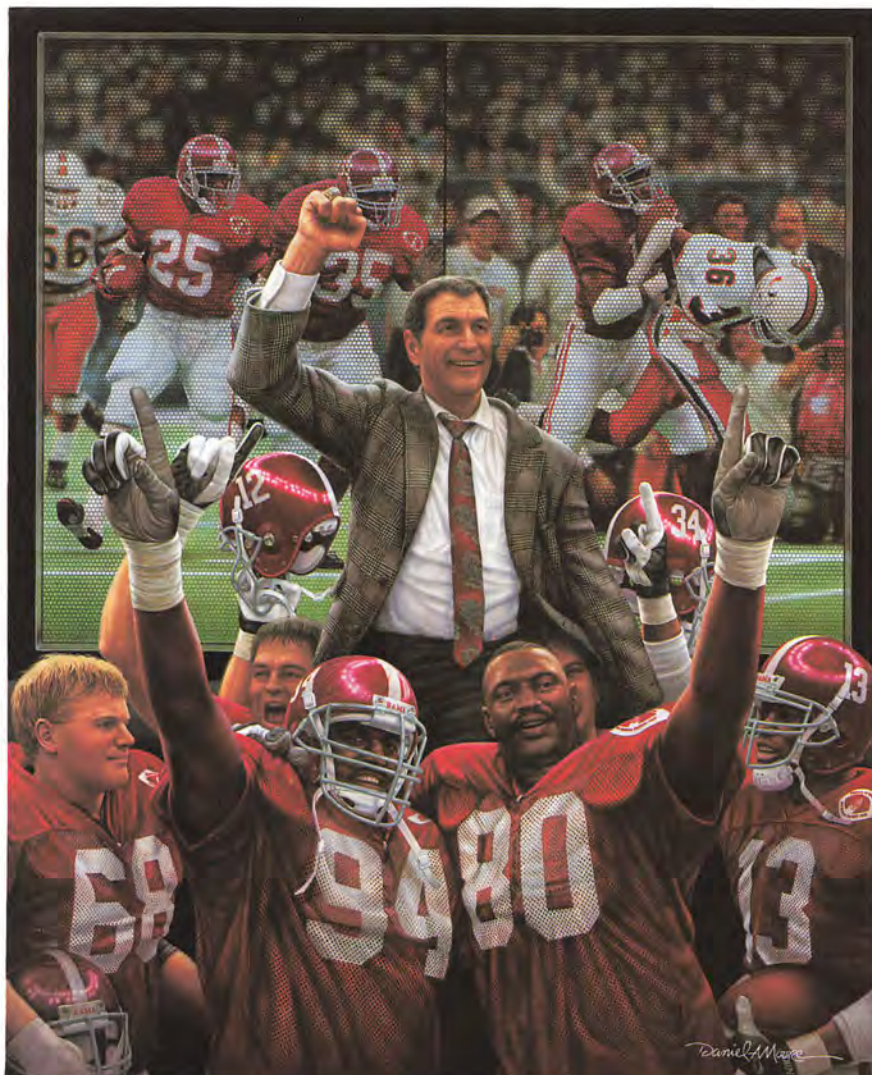
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From Sleeper To Starter

by Donald F. Staffo

Redshirt freshman offensive tackle hopes to start for rest of century

Chris Samuels, Alabama's mammoth offensive left tackle, wants what his older brother, Lawrence, has. For the past three years, Lawrence has played in the Arena Football League, and his team, the Tampa Bay Storm, has won the championship the past two seasons.

"He's got a ring," Chris said. "I'm jealous. I want a ring so bad." Lawrence is a 1992 graduate of Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama), where he played wide receiver.

Chris is one of only a few Crimson Tide players of the past 37 years who doesn't have some kind of ring or watch for having won a championship and/or played in a bowl game. At the least, he expects to get a bowl memento this year. But what he really wants before he leaves The Capstone is a national championship ring.

After five games as a substitute for Sage Spree, Samuels, a 6-6, 300-pounder, got his first start against North Carolina State. Spree was moved to the right side to back up Pete DiMario and Samuels has held on to the number one job, ahead of 1995 starter Joel Holliday.

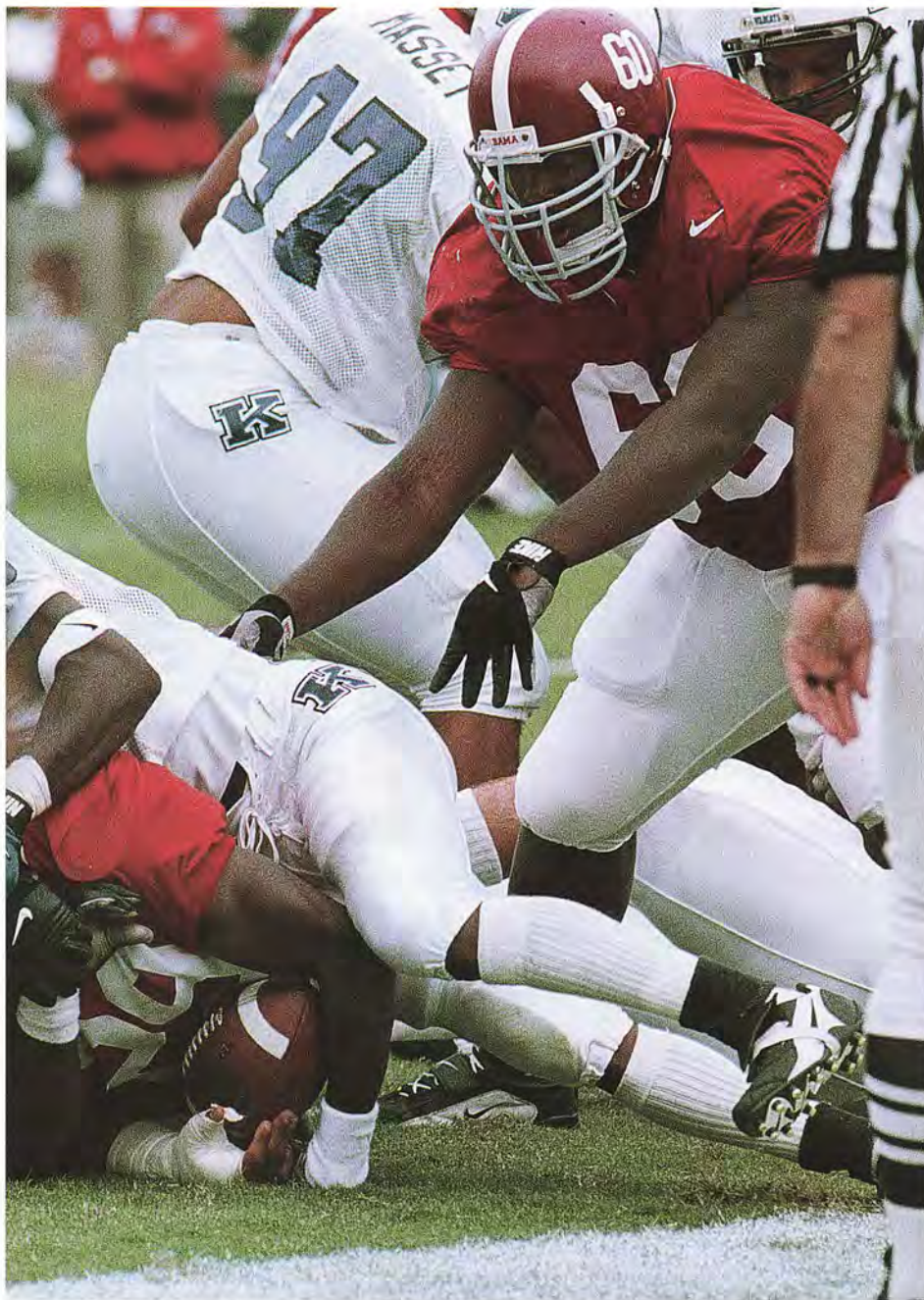
"Spree, Holliday and Samuels have all played on the left side at one time or another and Chris has probably been the most consistent of the three," said Danny Pearman, who coaches Alabama's offensive tackles. "Chris was getting quite a few snaps even before he became the starter. He's still splitting time with Holliday."

"I had a good game against Kentucky," Samuels said. "I think that's when the coaches decided to move me up." Actually, Samuels had moved to number one last spring, but suffered a shoulder injury in early fall work, enabling Spree to start the season with the first unit.

Samuels said, "At the beginning of the year Sage would feel the opponent out and then tell me what to expect. Now that I'm starting, I have to figure him out for myself, and then I tell Joel what he's doing."

Samuels said that because Alabama has a right-handed quarterback, who usually has his back to the left, it is the responsibility of the left tackle to keep the quarterback from getting blind-sided.

"With Pete (DiMario) being a senior and me being a freshman, we run behind him



Redshirt freshman offensive tackle Chris Samuels has good skills and athleticism and with a good off-season program and continued experience could be an exceptional lineman for the Crimson Tide.

Barry Fikes Photo

more than we do behind me," Samuels said. "We run to the right a lot, and when we do I'm responsible for running to the opposite side for cut-off blocking. My job is to get to the outside linebacker."

Samuels said the reason he can do that, despite his size, is that he has quickness off the ball. "I also have good technique, and I know how to leverage and use my body weight to my advantage," he said.

Pearman agreed that Samuels has good feet and quickness and the ability to get on a block and maintain it.

Young and inexperienced, Samuels is appreciative of the opportunity he has been given. "I'm only 19 years old," he said. "It's a great feeling just being here and being a starter. If I can just maintain it, I can

*BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/DECEMBER '96

be a starter for Alabama for the rest of the century."

Pearman acknowledged that Samuels is a little ahead of schedule. "What he needs to do now is get his strength caught up with his athletic ability," the coach said. "And he needs to get more experience, especially in big games. He needs to experience different things and different looks."

Since he earned a starting position so quickly, Pearman was asked if Samuels was a likely All-SEC or All-America candidate down the road. "It's too early to put a tag on somebody," he said. "If he works hard, Chris can be as good as he wants to be. If he works on the little things, the big things have a tendency to take care of themselves."

To reach his potential, though, Samuels is going to have to keep working hard, something he admits that he has not always done. "Now I take practice more seriously than when I wasn't starting," he said. "I work harder than I used to work."

"I consider myself dedicated and hard-working, but I can work harder. Coach Pearman used to call me lazy. He doesn't do that so much anymore. Now, even when he does I don't mind as much because I know I've been working hard."

Samuels acknowledges that when he came out of Mobile's Shaw High School he was not as highly regarded by most recruiting analysts as many of his Crimson Tide teammates. Surrounded by high school All-Americans and first-team all-stars at Alabama, Samuels' modest claim to fame was being selected to the *Mobile Press-Register's* Super 22 team.

"In the Mobile area all you ever really heard about were Jason McDonald and Kelvin Sigler. I was more like a 'sleeper,'" Samuels said. (Alabama also landed McDonald, an offensive tackle from Theodore High School, and Sigler, a free safety from Shaw).

Even though he lacked the fame of McDonald and Sigler, Samuels was offered scholarships by Auburn, Mississippi State, Vanderbilt, Tulane and Southern Mississippi. Although he grew up an Alabama fan, Samuels said he was undecided where he wanted to go to school.

"At first I was leaning toward Auburn because they were the first school to call me, and that meant a lot," he said. "But after I injured my neck (a stinger which caused Samuels to miss his last game of the season), they kind of backed off, and that really turned me off to them."

Samuels settled on the Tide because "there's a lot of tradition here, it's close to home and it's a great place to be."

Now that he's here, Samuels said that his goal is "to be a starter from week to week, and mainly just keep getting better."

To do that Samuels, who runs a 5.1 forty but only bench presses 325 pounds, realizes that he must get stronger. "I need to work on my strength a lot," he said. "I'm only

benching 325 pounds whereas most SEC tackles are benching 400-something."

Pearman agrees, stating that "without a doubt, Chris needs a solid off-season in the weight room."

"I also need to learn all of my assignments," said Samuels. "Right now I'm still missing a few assignments, but that will come along with me getting more experience."

Still, Samuels said he wants to make the All-SEC freshman team. Down the road he said that professional football is "in the back



of my mind, but I realize that the possibility of that happening is not that great."

"There's always the chance in football that you could get hurt," he said. "So my degree is just as important, or more important, as trying to play pro football."

The polite, soft-spoken Samuels said, "A lot of people might be afraid of me because of my size, but I think I'm a nice person. I'm easy-going and laid-back." Off the football field, that is. On it, getting hit by Chris Samuels is like getting run over by a Mack truck.

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Waiting For A Second Chance

by Jeff Janes

Soph has had one start, looks to future

The year was 1994 and recruiting gurus from across the country proclaimed The University of Alabama's freshman class of linebackers as one of the best groups signed that season. Depending on how you counted, Alabama signed as many as eight linebackers. Two seasons and several redshirts later, the talent-laden class of '94 is beginning to make its impact for the Crimson Tide.

Tito Smith, a member of that heralded class, has found a surprisingly expanded role for himself this season. After injuries side-lined starter Ralph Staten for the North Carolina State game and junior Paul Pickett was moved from strongside linebacker to the middle position for depth purposes after a season-ending injury to Fernando Davis, Smith was given the opportunity to start his first game.

"It was real exciting for me," said Smith. "I didn't really know what to expect because I was so nervous. I just wanted to get off to a fast start."

Smith was recruited as one of the state's top linebackers as a senior at Shades Valley High School in Birmingham. Known for his speed and quickness, he recorded 140 tackles as a middle linebacker. At the time Smith weighed slightly over 200 pounds which was stretched over a 6-foot-3-inch frame. Generally regarded as one of the top ten players in the state at the conclusion of his senior year, Smith was heavily recruited by Alabama and eventually chose the Crimson Tide for its reputation as a "linebacker school."

"I could remember watching Cornelius Bennett and Derrick Thomas play," said Smith. "The tradition here and the fact that Alabama has always had good linebackers helped me make my decision."

The goal of playing as a true freshman was a possibility, but Smith knew when he inked with the Tide that he would have to be patient and wait his turn. Alabama already had a plethora of talent at his position and the Tide's most recent haul of linebackers only reinforced the depth. Smith knew his playing time would be limited at best but he figured on making the best of a crowded situation.

"I knew about the depth that Alabama had so I came in with the attitude of learning from the veterans so I could put myself in a position to play," said Smith.

Tito's first season at Alabama proved to be a learning one as he received most of his practice with the scout team. To most high school stars, practice with the scout team means running formations in order to help the first team players improve. However, Smith showed his patience and knew it was only a matter of time before he would get his chance. He took a redshirt in 1994 and claims it was not as difficult as one might think.

"I knew it was going to take time for me to get used to the system so it didn't bother me to take the redshirt," said Smith.

Smith put the scout team behind him in 1995 and focused on making strides toward gaining playing time in the rotation. Most of his action, he thought, would come through work with punt and kickoff coverage and the natural progression into the playing rotation would be inevitable. However, the expectation since high school of playing linebacker on the collegiate level would have to wait another season. During a practice session Tito suffered a season-ending knee injury. He tore his anterior cruciate ligament completely and the injury was so severe that doctors thought he might never play football again.

After a couple of false starts, including a year lost to injury, linebacker Tito Smith is working on special teams and as a back-up on defense.

Barry Fikes Photo

All of Alabama's practices are video-taped and Tito's injury was captured on film. "The doctors and coaches all reviewed the film but they couldn't figure out what happened," said Smith. "I remember making a move to the ball and my knee just seemed to buckle. I couldn't tell you how it happened." More odd was the fact that Smith does not recall experiencing excruciating pain. Physically he felt fine and even ran on the injured knee before retiring to the training room.

The injury was the low point in Smith's playing career and the proposition of sitting out another year was a difficult one. He began rehabilitating the knee and spent more time in the weight room where he added about 20 pounds to his frame. Smith once again set his goals to earn playing time at the weakside linebacker position.

"I set my goals to be realistic," Smith said. "I knew it would take time to get my knee back to where it was."

He claims his knee is now stronger than it was prior to the injury. It would be fortuitous for Smith that injuries, albeit not to him, would be what propelled him into the starting lineup against North Carolina State. In addition to the shuffle of personnel, two of his linebacker teammates who were a part of his talented recruiting class, were moved to the defensive line, Chris Hood to left end and Steven Harris to the right side. As a result, Smith was moved from the weakside position to the strongside in order to fortify the depth.

The differences in the move are subtle on paper but are huge during game situations. "The strongside is more responsible for pass coverage," said Smith. "You're responsible for the tight end a lot of times and you become like a defensive back in certain situations."



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Smith's playing time becomes more important with each game. Due to attrition and the result of the penalty imposed by the NCAA which limited scholarships in 1995 and '96, Alabama does not have the plentiful supply of players as is normally the case. The Crimson Tide staff has signed only one linebacker during the previous two recruiting seasons. Furthermore, the sole linebacker signee (Rob-E Staten, a redshirt freshman) has been delegated to the middle position on defense.

The Tide staff chose not to pursue more linebackers due to the stockpile of players at linebacker and instead concentrated on signing linemen and receiver/defensive back types for the past two seasons. At any rate, Smith's ability and performance for the Tide will increase in importance during the latter portion of this season and will carry over into next year and 1998.

Smith identifies his current role as one which requires him to wait a little longer as talented veterans ahead of him continue to see the majority of playing time.

"My role is contribute on special teams and defense until I get my chance again," said Smith. "I just keep an open mind."

When his time does come to be a more permanent fixture for the Tide, Smith plans to make the most of it.

"One of my goals when I came here was to be a leader," said Smith. "I want to be a leader of the defense."

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Gymnastics Outlook:

High Hopes For Alabama Again In '97

by Andrew Varble II

Pattersons have squad
of 16 as Bama defends
its national championship

After 17 years of coaching the Alabama Gymnastics team and having NCAA title contender after NCAA title contender, including two championships and 11 straight top-four finishes at the national championships, one would think that Sarah and David Patterson had seen it all. And in one way or another the wife/husband Crimson Tide gymnastics coaching team probably has. Before last season, the Pattersons had led Bama to an NCAA title on the road (1988, Salt Lake City, Utah) and in front of the home crowd in Coleman Coliseum (1991). The Pattersons had coached teams to NCAA records (1988 and 1991) and they'd produced individual NCAA Champions; a total of seven titles belonged to the Crimson Tide before the 1996 season.

With a history like that, one would think that very little would leave the Pattersons in awe, little would make them take a step back and marvel in what they and their charges had put together. And if that is the way you were thinking...well you'd have another think coming. Alabama put together a season in 1996 that was far brighter and star-studded than any the Tide had enjoyed before. The highs were higher and the feats were more amazing than ever before.

The Pattersons, along with Assistant Coach Scott Mackall and 12 dedicated and talented gymnasts, brought Alabama its third NCAA team title, with an NCAA record score, in front of an NCAA record crowd. Meredith Willard won the NCAA All-Around title, crowning her the nation's best individual gymnast. Stephanie Woods won the Tide's first uneven bars national

The success of Alabama's 1997 gymnastics team will depend in great part on the performances of returning senior All-Americans (left to right) Kim Bonaventura, Stephanie Woods, and Meredith Willard. Willard was last year's individual All-Around champion in the Tide's national championship season.

Barry Fikes Photo







The architects of Alabama's national powerhouse gymnastics team are the wife and husband team of Head Coach Sarah Patterson and Associate Head Coach David Patterson. They are beginning their 19th year at the helm of Bama gymnastics. Gymnasts are (left to right) Shay Murphy, Merritt Booth, Danielle McAdams and Mandy Chapman. Barry Fikes Photo

title. Kim Kelly completed a legendary career and closed out the Tide's glorious season of magic with a perfect 10.0 on the floor exercise, winning that event in the process.

And with the championship barely over, the Tide celebrated with a banquet and round of final exams that let them out into summer. The Pattersons, along with daughters Jessie and Jordan, followed the season-ending banquet with a long awaited vacation to, appropriately enough, Disney World.

Upon their return from the land of Mickey and Co., whatever was left of spring dissolved into a summer of coaching camps for David and administrative duties for Sarah. In between meetings and paper work, Sarah did manage a trip to the Olympics to watch America's team win the gold medal.

And as quickly as spring turned to summer, fall was in the air and a new season

was upon the gymnastics program. And once again, for a pair of coaches now entering their 19th year leading the Tide, the 1996-97 season has already been like nothing they've seen before.

For starters, there was a changing of the guard at the assistant coach spot. Scott Mackall, who had coached four years with the Tide, decided that the time was right to step out of coaching and into private business. Alabama turned to Michigan's top assistant, Bryan Raschilla, to fill Mackall's shoes. In addition to being one of the nation's best young technical coaches, Raschilla is a top notch recruiter whose classes at Michigan account for much of the Wolverines' recent success.

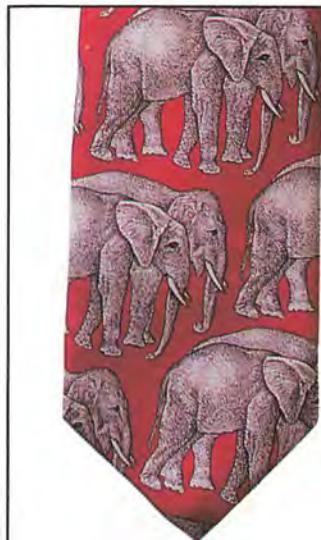
In addition to a new face on the coaching staff, David, Scott and Bryan spent much of

the summer moving the Tide into its new practice facility. A brand new, just out of the box, 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility located behind Coleman Coliseum.

It was during the move from the Tide's old practice facility to the new that David Patterson suffered a fall that may well have saved his life. While moving equipment into the new facility, Patterson fell off a loading dock, injuring his side. Through the rush of getting the new gym in order before the start of practice, David ignored the pain that was growing in his side until everything was in order, and then he took a trip to see team physician Jimmy Robinson. What Dr. Robinson found was a broken rib and, in further tests, a two-inch tumor encapsulated in Patterson's right kidney. Within a week of finding the tumor David had surgery to remove the kidney and the tumor. The operation was a success and tests showed that the renal carcinoma had not spread beyond the kidney.

Recovery for David has gone as expected, and is still progressing. He is back in the gym coaching and planning for a competitive season that will be a challenge for the defending national champions and is not far off at all. And while Alabama is set to prove that they are, as this year's motto proclaims, "The hottest ticket in town!", it is last year's slogan, in light of all that has happened over the past four months, that echoes in the minds of each member of the Tide's program: "Enjoy the Journey."

The road to Gainesville, Florida, site of the 1997 NCAA Gymnastics Championships and the arena in which Alabama will defend its title, could be a difficult one for the Tide this year. The Pattersons' challenge is preparing its largest team ever, 16 in all, including six newcomers, for a season where expectations are high. Alabama's core is its senior class.



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Willard, Woods and Kim Bonaventura are set to go out in style.

Willard, a member of the 1996 Homecoming court, continues to improve each year of her career and her final year should be no exception. In addition, the Clemmons, North Carolina, native looks to earn her fourth straight Scholastic All-America honor.

Woods of Austin, Texas, one of the steadiest and most graceful performer in Tide history, looks to not only defend her uneven bars title but to take a shot at adding the NCAA balance beam title to her resume.

Bonaventura battled through injury last season, and returned to full duty just before the NCAA Central Regional Championships. The Houston, Texas, native earned All-America honors for the third straight year in 1996, taking second team honors on the balance beam.

One of the keys to the Tide's success last season was the development of this year's junior class. Merritt Booth, Danielle McAdams, Shay Murphy and Heather Nasser all took giant steps forward last season, developing into a group of steady and often clutch performers.

Booth earned All-America honors for the second straight year. The Fort Worth, Texas,

native earned first team honors on the vault and second team on the floor exercise. In addition, Booth earned Scholastic All-America honors as well as earning a spot on the Dean's list.

McAdams' brand of fiery enthusiasm on the floor made her a crowd favorite. The Collinsville, Illinois, native earned All-America honors on the floor exercise and second team honors on the uneven bars. And in the heat of the Tide's championship run last spring, McAdams scored the first perfect 10.0 of her career, bringing the Coleman Coliseum fans out of their seats in wild cheering with a perfect vault all but sealing the Tide's third NCAA title. McAdams also earned Scholastic All-America honors last season as well as Dean's List accolades.

Murphy was one of the Tide's steadiest performers last season, giving rock-solid performances meet in and meet out on the floor exercise and the balance beam. The Canton, Michigan, native earned second team All-America honors on the beam last season. In the classroom, Murphy added Academic All-SEC honors to her growing resume.

Nasser, a native of Birmingham, made a large step forward in 1996, earning a spot in the Tide's vault lineup for much of the season. The Tide's sophomore class is itching to get

back on the floor for the 1997 season. Mandy Chapman, of Greensboro, North Carolina, who came to Alabama as a walk-on, has earned a scholarship for this season. Lisa Gianni, of Livingston, New Jersey, was sidelined early last year with season-ending injury. She is back this year and hungry to compete.

The Tide's third sophomore, Gwen Spidle, worked her way into the Tide's uneven bars lineup last season, adding dependable depth. This season the Gallatin, Missouri, native hopes to expand her role.

The Tide's newcomers, six in number, look to step in and help the Tide fill the shoes left by Kelly and All-America Marna Neubauer, both of whom entered the Tide's Gymnastics Hall of Fame at the end of their careers. Sophomore Gina Logan, of Pass Christian, Mississippi, was on campus last year and returns to competition this year. Logan joins freshmen Lexa Evans, of Gilford, New Hampshire, Becca Fields, of Indianapolis, Indiana, Lauren Graffeo, of Trussville, Heidi Harriman of Peachtree City, Georgia, and Rachel Rochelli, of Katy, Texas. All six are looking for ways to make the highest scoring team in NCAA history a little better. All 16 women, their coaches and the growing Crimson Tide faithful hope that their efforts will lead to more championship gold and another season of magic.



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Tide Hopes Less Means More

by Stephen Craig

Slimmed-down McGhee should pay big dividends for Tide basketball team

Everything is big in Texas. That's true, until it comes east to Alabama. In 1995 Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs saw a junior college player named Thalamus McGhee score 44 points in a game and Hobbs saw something in him that he liked. The kid scored well, he had quick feet, and he ran well for a big man, 6-9 and a playing weight somewhere in the neighborhood of 280 pounds. Knock 20 or so pounds off, Hobbs thought, and he might have himself a player.

So Hobbs recruited McGhee and convinced him that Alabama was the place for him. McGhee agreed, and Hobbs had himself a big man to hopefully shore up an inside game decimated by the loss of sophomore Antonio McDyess to the NBA.

But by NCAA rules, once McGhee inked, Hobbs could not keep contact in such a way to monitor him until he arrived in August. McGhee had been at home in Houston, where he had been a prep star for Coach Mike Benedict's state championship Westfield High School team. Home cooking that summer of 1995 resulted in McGhee's weight ballooning to 317 pounds.

"We had some surprises in our season last year, and there were some of those which were pleasant," Hobbs said. "But Thal coming in at 317 was not one of them."

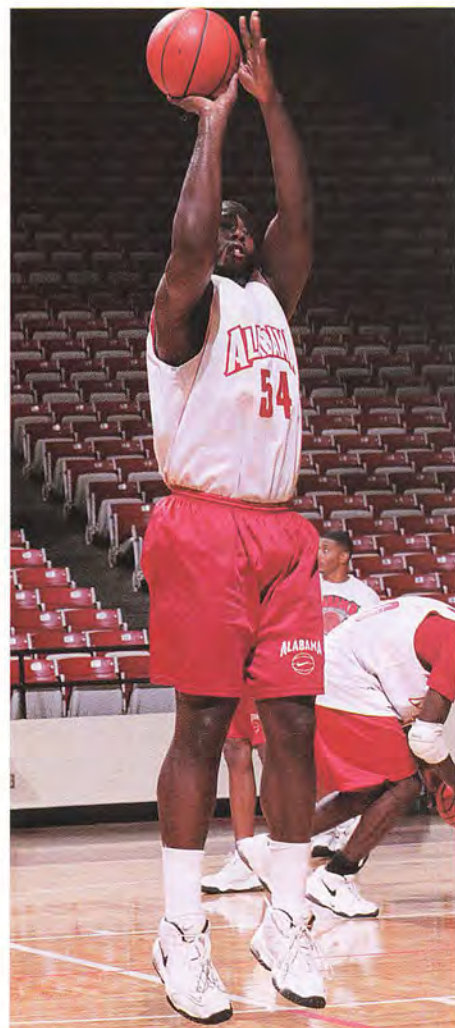
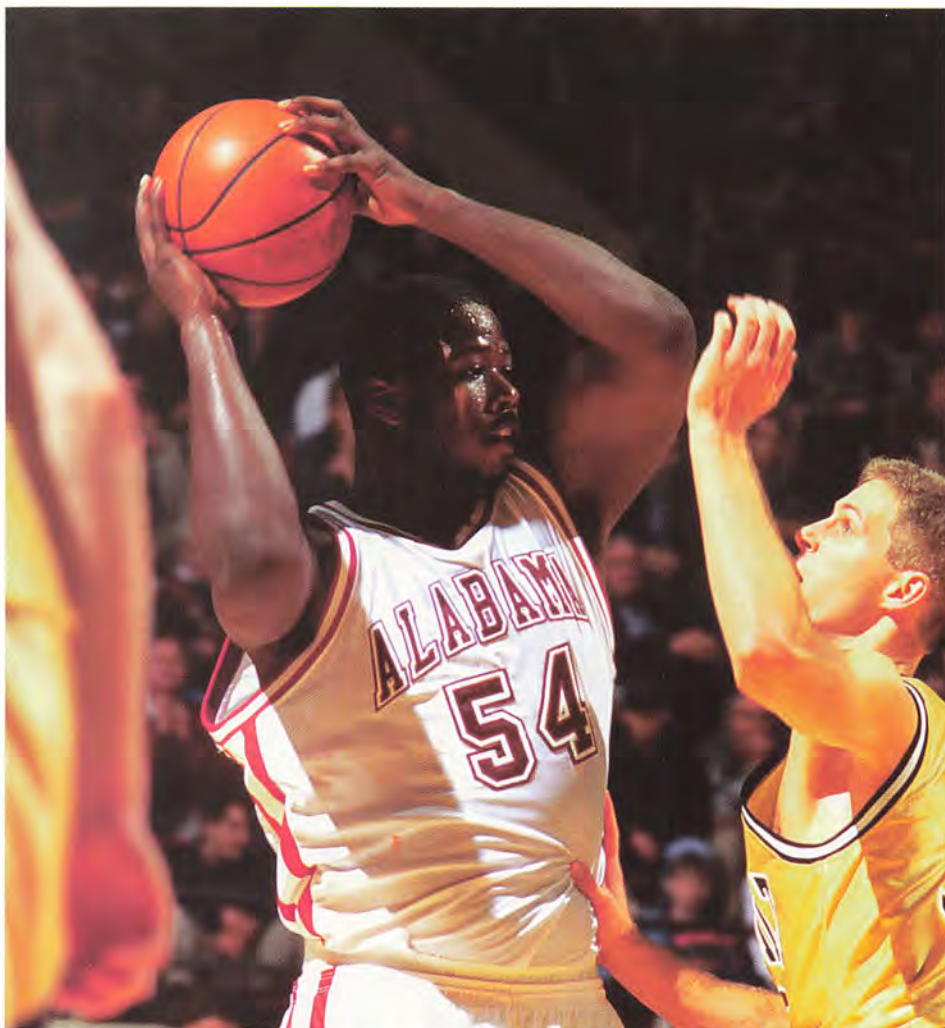
"We were really glad when he signed, because we figured we could get 20 pounds or

so off him and he could help fill a void left by Antonio McDyess. We got 20 pounds off him, but that only dropped him to 290, where he played much of last year."

But things were not all bad for McGhee last season, as he did produce 5.2 rebounds and 3.0 points per game in an average of 19.4 minutes. He started in 20 of the 29 games in which he played and recorded a season-high 16 rebounds in a Tide road win against eventual Final Four participant Mississippi State.

However, he never approached his junior college success, where he had starred for Coach Leon Spencer at Trinity Valley in Athens, Texas. As a sophomore he averaged 14 points and 9.9 rebounds per game, shot 58 per cent from the field and 68 per cent from the free throw line.

In addition to that 44-point night in a game against Kaskaskai, McGhee also had



Alabama basketball opponents had a lot more of Thalamus McGhee to deal with last year when he was a 300-pounder. This year a slimmer (265) McGhee is expected to be able to contribute more to Crimson Tide basketball fortunes.

Barry Fikes Photos

30 points, 20 rebounds and two blocked shots in the Texas-New Mexico Junior College All-Star Game.

Plus, playing behind and with another post man named Roy Rogers didn't hurt, either. "I watched Roy and learned from playing with him," McGhee said. "I learned how he approached the game, both from a mental and physical standpoint. I saw how hard he worked." Rogers was the surprise of the Southeastern Conference and among the top surprises in college basketball nationwide last year as he went from a role player to a first round NBA draft choice.

"Thal did some good things for us last season, and we can't discount that," Hobbs said. "I compare what he went through last season to back when I played and the coaches made us wear weighted vests to condition us and make us stronger. For him it was like playing with a 30- or 40-pound weight vest on. Carrying that kind of excess weight was tough."

As a junior college All-America and first-team all-region selection, making the transition was tough enough for McGhee because he felt the pressure to prove himself worthy of his accolades. But add the problem of the coaches' dissatisfaction of his lack of disci-

pline, and it made it even tougher.

"Dealing with the weight problem frustrated me last year," McGhee admitted. "I knew I could play, and I really expected to help the team more than I did last season. For some reason I wasn't focused over the summer and it hampered me. Plus, everybody was on me saying I needed to lose the weight."

Enter Terry Jones, the assistant strength and conditioning coach who worked Rogers right into the NBA. With Jones, the task at face value was a simple mandate sent down at the end of last season by Hobbs: McGhee was to begin the 1996-97 season at 265 pounds, or he wouldn't begin.

The training started on April 15, and ended exactly six months later on October 15, when Bama players reported for the first day of practice.

Jones' first hurdle was to train McGhee on how to eat properly. A diet of high protein and less fat and junk food was the place to start. Jones coupled diet with two months of nothing but aerobic exercise. McGhee ran a lap for every pound that he was over, beginning with 27 laps. Bicycling, Stairmaster, jumping rope and running began McGhee's descent, a journey that Jones said was beneficial for both parties.

"We had a competition going because I was losing weight at the same time," Jones said.

"We came in after every weekend and we had to be at a certain weight. He really stayed focused and worked hard, both with me and some of the other athletes, including Brian Williams, M.C. Mazique and a number of football athletes."

Weight training was also a part of Jones' regimen, as was well-documented in Rogers, his previous special pupil. While McGhee lost weight, he gained strength.

And so, before the season even got under way, McGhee had accomplished a great deal. So how does he feel about all this hard work? "I feel really good," McGhee said. "I have much more stamina, I can jump higher and I'm much more agile than I was last year. I'm back to how I played my old position in junior college."

But can the weight loss hinder McGhee's performance? After all, a 6-9 center faces a tall order anyway, not considering the lack of weight that could be used to bang on the inside and maneuver for rebounding.

Hobbs said the transformation can only help. "I can't think of how this can hurt him at all," Hobbs said. "Yes, he's lighter, but he's still big and now he's stronger and faster and can use his weight to his advantage. Plus, since he's more conditioned, we can keep him in there longer and he'll wear down big-

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ger opponents." Last year McGhee was able to play for 30 minutes or more in only three games.

The "before and after" difference in McGhee is like night and day. A player whose demeanor the coaches were not sure would lend itself to such a test, this mild-mannered big man passed with flying colors. With the sheepish grin and child-like expression common with McGhee, he speaks with confidence now about ways in which he can improve.

"I want to lead the team in rebounding this season," McGhee said. "That takes playing mean and being very aggressive and sometimes that is not easy for me. I also want to improve my perimeter game (but don't look for three-pointers; he's made one in his Tide career, a last-second shot just before halftime against Vanderbilt last year) and raise my free throw shooting percentage (last year a horrible 44.6 per cent on 25 of 56). And last but not least, I want to be a leader. My way (to do that) is by encouraging."

"Thalamus is a mild-mannered guy, but he possesses a toughness that is important," Hobbs said. "He showed me something to get down to 265, because it was all on him. And now we are all the beneficiary of his hard work."

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Prep Prospects:

A Look At Big Men In The South

by Kirk McNair

Alabama expected to sign many linemen, linebackers and tight ends this year

The so-called skill position football players get most of the glory, but the dirty work of a successful football team is done by the big men, and a team just about can't have too many of them.

The pace of recruiting picks up in December before it hits high gear in January, headed to a February 5 signing date. Alabama's recruiting emphasis is expected to be on the big men: linemen, linebackers and tight ends. Although Crimson Tide coaches will look for football players first in Alabama, all great Bama football teams have featured good out-of-state players. And Alabama tends to recruit those players primarily from the South.

Because Alabama traditionally has been the premier football program in the South, many top players include the Crimson Tide as among the schools they are considering. And because of Alabama's year-in and year-out success, Bama coaches have the opportunity to recruit top players everywhere.

There is no such thing as an official Alabama recruiting list (at least not one that leaves the offices of Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings and Recruiting Coordinator Randy Ross), and so we rely on various publications to define a list of top prep players thought to be considering and/or being considered by Alabama. These linemen, linebackers and tight ends from around the South are listed alphabetically (with a couple of exceptions) by state:

Arkansas

Although most don't think of Arkansas as being fertile recruiting territory for Alabama, once upon a time it was. Do names like Don Hutson (Pine Bluff) and Paul Bryant (Fordyce) ring a bell?

This year the Arkansas towns drawing the attention of recruiters are Jonesboro and Jacksonville.

The top offensive lineman in Arkansas is Reggie Coleman, a 6-6, 310-pounder at Jonesboro. Coleman, who runs a 5.1 40-yard dash, is said to be considering Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Texas A&M, Michigan and Texas, and Coleman was quoted as saying that Bama had offered a scholarship.

Adrian Wilson is a transplant from famed Carter High School in Dallas, Texas, now playing his senior season at Jacksonville. He's a 6-4, 290-pound defensive lineman who runs a 5.0 40. Even though he is constantly double- and triple-teamed, through



Travis Carroll

the first five games of the year Wilson had 51 tackles, eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and 15 quarterback pressures. He is a national recruit who has already set a January 10 official visit to Alabama, but Texas A&M is considered the leader.

Florida

A recent addition to the list of Florida players considering Alabama is offensive tackle Ron Boldin of Pahokee. He's a 6-7, 271-pounder who runs a 5.1 40. As a junior he was all-state as he graded 91 per cent. He has a long list of schools he is considering, but he has twice attended the summer football camp at Miami.

When quarterback/defensive back Chris Reier of Jacksonville Bolles High School committed to Alabama, the attention of Crimson Tide recruiting buffs immediately turned to some of his teammates, particularly a linebacker and a defensive lineman who visited Bama with Reier for the Ole Miss game and who have been rumored to be leaning to Alabama.

Travis Carroll is the top linebacker on one of the nation's top teams. He is a 6-4, 230-pounder who runs a 4.6 40 and plays inside. He was the area defensive player of the year as a junior as he turned in 176 tackles, 29 for losses, seven sacks, two interceptions, seven fumbles caused and five fumble recoveries.

Also visiting Bama earlier this year from Bolles was defensive tackle Sam Matthews, 6-6, 270, considered by many to be the top prospect in the Sunshine State. He runs a 4.9 40. Last year he had 78 tackles and five sacks, batted down four passes, caused three fumbles and recovered three fumbles. He was all-state as a junior.

Also on that Bolles team is Char'ron Dorsey, a 6-7, 310-pound defensive tackle. He had 70 tackles as a junior in an all-state



Sam Matthews

year. He is also a top basketball player. Florida State heads a long list of schools Dorsey is considering.

A volunteer coach working with the defensive line at Bolles is former Bama defensive line star Mike Raines.

William Cuthbert, 6-5, 325, is an offensive tackle at Central High School in Fort Pierce. He runs a 5.3 40. He has been a three-year starter and last year graded 85 per cent. He has been to football camp at FSU.

Raynard Lee is a 6-3, 225-pound tight end at Marianna. He has great speed (4.6) and last year caught 12 passes for 235 yards and two touchdowns. He plays strong safety on defense and had 41 tackles and two interceptions as a junior.

Gerard "Big Money" Warren is considered by some to be the South's top defensive lineman. He's a 6-4, 280-pound tackle at Union County in Lake Butler. As a junior he had 60 tackles with seven sacks, four fumble recoveries and three fumbles caused. He has been a three-time all-state performer and played on back-to-back state championship teams. He lists Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Florida State as his top choices.

Andrew Zow is used to being at the end of lists, but he's among the top prospects in the nation despite having missed much of this season with a knee injury. He's a 6-2, 205-pounder who runs a 4.6 40. Although he has been his team's quarterback for the past two years, he is generally considered an outside linebacker prospect. He plays with Warren at Union County. Playing free safety last year he had seven interceptions. As a quarterback he had almost equal numbers passing and rushing, about 1,000 yards each, and accounted for 23 touchdowns.

Georgia

Alabama appears to have become more in-



Char'ron Dorsey



Gerard Warren



Andrew Zow



Cosey Coleman



Cortez Allen

involved in recruiting in Georgia in the past couple of years. Bama seems to be very active in the greater Atlanta area.

Middle linebacker Cortez Allen, 6-1, 220, of Decatur Southwest DeKalb, had 113 tackles as a junior on a state championship team. He also had three fumbles caused, two fumble recoveries and a pass interception. He runs a 4.6 40.

Derek Allen was the defensive player of the year in Metro Atlanta as a junior. The 6-2, 260-pound defensive tackle runs a 4.9 40. Last year he had 70 tackles and eight sacks.

Willie Blade is a 6-4, 290-pound tackle at Warner Robins Northside. He has good

speed (4.8) and strength. As a junior he had 55 tackles, 11 sacks, caused four fumbles and knocked down two passes.

Cosey Coleman, 6-5, 310, is a two-way tackle at Decatur Southwest DeKalb. Although he is ranked the number one offensive tackle by some services, he is considered by many to be the best defensive lineman in Georgia. He runs a 5.2 40. As a junior at Shamrock High School he had 97 tackles, nine sacks, and two blocked kicks. He has been to football camp at Georgia and he has seen Alabama play at least twice on unofficial visits, once in Tuscaloosa, once at LSU. Georgia and LSU (he was born in New

Orleans) are considered Bama's top competition.

Marlon Davis is an exceptional two-sport star, a college prospect both in football and basketball. He's a 6-7, 230-pound tight end at Eastman Dodge County. Although he missed some time after undergoing shoulder surgery, he is reported to be 100 per cent healed. In basketball he averaged 19 points and nine rebounds per game last year. He runs a 4.8 40. He's also considering Florida and Georgia.

Darion Hutcherson is a 6-0, 210-pound outside linebacker whose 4.6 speed could mean a move to strong safety in college. He plays at Atlanta Douglass where he was credited with 186 tackles, nine sacks, eight caused fumbles and 13 fumble recoveries last year. He plays fullback on offense. He went to summer football camp at Tennessee.

Trey Love (6-4, 220, 4.6) is another two-sport star, a tight end and basketball player at Bainbridge. As a junior he caught 21 passes. He's also looking at Georgia and FSU.

Raen Metcalf is another top player at Decatur Southwest DeKalb. He's a 6-3, 202-pound outside linebacker who runs a 4.5 40. As a junior he had 83 tackles, 10 sacks and 16 quarterback pressures. He appears to be headed out of state with Alabama, Clemson and South Carolina his top choices.

Tony Moss is not the brother of Alabama basketball freshman Alfred Moss, even though both are from Newnan. The two are cousins, but another cousin, Rod Strickland, signed with Louisville and another, James Warren, signed at Georgia. Tony is a 6-2, 275-pound defensive tackle who has made an unofficial visit to Alabama. He went to FSU's camp, but Tennessee is considered Bama's top competition.

Anthony "Bo" Perry is having to overcome a knee injury this year, but the 6-6, 300-pounder for Cedartown is considered an outstanding prospect at offensive tackle. He runs a 5.5 40. He is best as a run blocker. He's also considering Georgia and Georgia Tech.

Tavarreus Pounds—what a name for a linebacker—is a 6-2, 210-pounder at Villa Rica. He runs a 4.6 40, speed that helps him at his outside linebacker position. He is also very strong. Pounds had 63 solo tackles, five sacks and five fumble recoveries as a junior.

Although Kenzi Ross had to play at defen-

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sive end for his Peach County High School team in Fort Valley the past two years, he has been able to move to his natural outside linebacker spot as a senior. The 6-2, 220-pounder has excellent speed (4.6 40) and was a member of his school's mile relay team that placed fourth in the state last spring.

Trent Sansberry, 6-3, 215, is a tight end at Parkview High School in Lilburn. He is a former quarterback. As a junior he had 27 receptions for 560 yards and three touchdowns. He runs a 4.6 40. He is also a top baseball player.

Whit Smith, 6-4, 225, is a middle linebacker at Crisp County High School in Cordele. He runs a 4.8 40. Last year Crisp County had the toughest schedule of any team in Georgia and Smith responded with a school record 176 tackles, despite playing with a broken hand. He was in FSU's summer football camp.

Louisiana

There was a suspicion that Alabama would be very active in Louisiana this year because of the presence of former LSU Head Coach Curley Hallman on the Bama staff. While Hallman was not popular with LSU fans, he was quite popular with high school coaches in Louisiana. However, only one line prospect in Louisiana has been identified as interested in Alabama.

Thomas Pittman is a 6-4, 255-pound defensive end at East St. John High School in Reserve. One service ranks him the nation's second best player at his position. Although he has been timed at 4.85 in the 40-yard dash, Pittman's prep career came to a premature end when he fractured an ankle. Pittman, who attended Bama's 26-0 win over LSU in Baton Rouge, had 30 tackles (including 12 for lost yardage) and eight sacks through the first four games of the year. He is also an outstanding baseball player who would like to play both sports in college. Texas A&M and Nebraska are considered top competition.

Mississippi

For a relatively small population state, Mississippi turns out excellent high school athletes in all sports, and Mississippi has been very, very good to Alabama.

Muskingum "Tyrone" Barnes seems to be a little undersized for the defensive line at 6-2, 245, but the Moss Point star is highly-rated. Additionally, he's an excellent student, which is why he has drawn attention nationwide. One report said that Tennessee and Notre Dame are in the lead for Barnes, while another puts LSU in front. Barnes has great speed (4.8) and is also strong, finishing third in the state in shot put last year. As a junior he had 110 tackles, 16 quarterback sacks and five fumble recoveries.

Orlando Dantzler (6-5, 250, 4.8) of Purvis is an excellent defensive end. As a junior he had 115 tackles with 18 sacks, caused three fumbles and recovered three (including one for a touchdown). He is also a tight end and last year had 14 catches for 300 yards and four touchdowns. He's also a top basketball player (25 points, 17 rebounds) and a good student. His list of schools (Notre Dame, Nebraska, Alabama, Mississippi State, FSU, Florida) says a lot about him.

Dorsett Davis is a 6-6, 265-pound defensive lineman at Cleveland East Side. He runs a 4.8 and just turned 18. As a junior he had 73 tackles, eight quarterback sacks and two fumble recoveries. He is also playing in the offensive line this year. He was second in last year's state shot put and also stars in basketball. He went to Mississippi State's summer football camp.

Marcus Evans is a 6-5, 235-pound defensive end at Wayne County in Waynesboro. He reportedly runs a 4.5 40. He is a three-year starter who has been his team's leading tackler the past two years.

Kenrick Fairchild is a 6-4, 297-pound two-way lineman at Greenville who is generally listed as a defensive prospect. As a junior he had 70 tackles, six quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries. He went to camp at Mississippi State.

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Jamal Reynolds



Kyle Young

Will Hammack is part of a fine group of linemen at Meridian. He's a 6-5, 275-pounder who is listed as both a tight end and center prospect. He is a good student who has been to summer football camps at Alabama (1995) and Ole Miss and Michigan (1996).

John Jones is a 6-0, 245-pound inside linebacker at Cleveland. He runs a 4.7 40 and is very strong (400 bench press). Although he missed the last half of his junior year with a knee injury, he made 56 tackles with one sack, caused three fumbles and recovered one in five games. He is an excellent student who has been to summer football camps at Alabama and Mississippi State.

Terrence Metcalf is generally considered the top prospect in Mississippi this year. He's a 6-4, 290-pound two-way tackle at Clarksdale who is expected to be an offensive lineman in college. He runs a 4.9 40 and was all-state as a junior despite playing on a team with a 3-7 record. He is very strong (420 bench press, 575 squat). Playing defense as a junior he had 104 tackles with three sacks and two fumble recoveries. He is a three-year starter. Almost every recruiting service shows Alabama leading the likes of Ohio State and Notre Dame for Metcalf, who is a former teammate of Bama wide receiver Michael Vaughn.

Jamie Nichols has been a two-way lineman at Philadelphia, but he's expected to be a middle linebacker in college. Nichols is 6-2, 250 and runs a 4.8 40. He had 117 tackles as a junior and he's also a fine baseball player.

Kendall Simmons is a 6-4, 310-pound defensive lineman at Ripley, but some believe he could be an offensive lineman in college. He runs a 4.9 40. He also plays basketball and baseball. As a junior he had 70 tackles, four quarterback sacks, caused five fumbles, and ran one fumble back for a touchdown. He went to Mississippi State's football camp.

There's another Kenny Smith on the recruiting scene this year. And just like last year's outstanding prospect of the same name from North Jackson High School in Stevenson, Alabama, the Kenny Smith who is a senior this year at Meridian is an excellent player. He's a 6-5, 260-pound defensive tackle for legendary Coach Mac Barnes. He runs a 4.9 40. Last year he had 68 tackles, five sacks, caused eight fumbles and recovered

six (one of which he ran in for a touchdown). He's also outstanding in basketball and baseball.

Carlos Stennis has played both offense and defense at Meridian, but the 6-2, 270-pounder is considered an offensive line prospect in college. He runs a 5.2 40, but is very strong. Last year as a defensive player he had 45 tackles, three sacks and three fumble recoveries. He has been to camps at Arkansas, Clemson and Notre Dame.

Kenyatta Walker is a teammate of Smith and Stennis at Meridian. Walker is a 6-6, 265-pound offensive tackle who was a 6-4, 215-pound junior and is expected to be a 300-pounder in college. He runs a 5.0 40. He went to camp at Southern Miss.

Floyd Womack is one of the larger prospects around, 6-4, 332, and he's an offensive lineman at Cleveland East Side. His 40 time of 5.8 reflects his size. He went to camp at Mississippi State.

South Carolina

Tide coaches reportedly got a very warm welcome when they went looking at prospects in South Carolina last spring, and it may be Bama is about to get more involved in recruiting that state.

Marcus Bryson is an excellent tight end prospect at 6-4, 235 with 4.6 speed in the 40. He plays at Laurens. Some are looking at him as a linebacker or defensive end, but last year he caught 29 passes for 407 yards and six touchdowns. He's also an outstanding basketball player.

Neely Page is considered the top offensive line prospect in South Carolina. He is a 6-4, 280-pound guard at Aiken. He is very strong (405 bench, 560 squat) and an excellent student. One report said he had 112 knock down blocks as a junior. The competition for Page includes Notre Dame, Tennessee and FSU.

Perez Patterson is somewhat undersized at 6-3, 250, but he is an outstanding offensive guard at Westside High School in Anderson. He runs a 5.0 40.

Chris Peterson is a 6-4, 250-pound nose guard who runs a 4.7 40, considerably faster than the 5.0 clocking he had as a junior.

Jamal Reynolds is the top prospect in South Carolina this year. He's a 6-4, 245-pound middle linebacker and fullback at Aiken who is projected as a defensive end or

outside linebacker in college. Reynolds is very quick with a 4.58 clocking in the 40. As a junior he had 132 tackles with seven sacks, three caused fumbles, three fumble recoveries and a blocked punt. He is very strong (405 bench, 525 squat). He is also a top shot put man. In addition to Alabama, he's being pursued by Notre Dame, Penn State and FSU.

Aaron Walker is a 6-3, 285-pound defensive tackle from Irmo who has come on strong in his senior season. He runs a 5.2 40 and could end up on offense. South Carolina, Auburn and Clemson are also involved.

Kyle Young is a 6-3, 255-pound center at Daniel High School in Central, the same school that produced Tide offensive tackle Joey Holliday. Kyle's brother, Will, was a three-year starter at Clemson. He runs a 5.1 40 and graded 85 per cent as a junior. He is a good student.

Tennessee

It is something of a surprise to see write-ups in Tennessee publications criticizing the quality of high school players in Tennessee as the explanation for the University of Tennessee going out of state for many of its signees. Alabama has had very good luck signing players from Tennessee. This year Alabama recruiters almost certainly consider it another good year in Tennessee.

Marcus Bell is a 6-4, 281-pound defensive tackle at Kingsbury High School in Memphis, where he was all-state as a junior. Last year he had 89 tackles, 19 for lost yardage, and seven sacks, caused and recovered three fumbles and turned in an interception. He has also seen duty on the offensive line.

John Finlayson is a 6-5, 275-pound tight end at McNairy Central High School in Selmer. He runs a 4.9 40 and may move to tackle in college, although he had 24 catches for 360 yards and six touchdowns on a wish-bone team as a junior. He also averaged six tackles per game on defense and he also plays basketball and baseball and is an excellent student. He has been to summer football camps at Alabama and Tennessee.

DeCoryre Hampton is one of the nation's best known offensive linemen. He's a 6-7, 325-pound tackle at Westwood High School in Memphis. He graded a phenomenal 98 per cent as a junior as he didn't allow a sack on a team that threw over 400 passes his junior season. He runs a 5.0 40. Hampton was all-state as a junior. He has made an unofficial visit to Alabama.

Austin Kemp is a 6-4, 218-pound linebacker from the excellent Brentwood Academy program. He runs a 4.5 40 and is capable of playing numerous positions, including quarterback and safety, tight end and defensive end. As a junior he was in on 145 tackles and had nine sacks and 12 quarterback pressures. He has been to Alabama on unofficial trips, in part to see his sister, who is a student at Bama and a roommate with the sister of Tider Josh Swords, also a former Brentwood Academy player.

Tito Lee is another Brentwood Academy star. He's a 5-11, 210-pound linebacker who led the team in tackles as a junior with 148.

He also had three sacks, caused three fumbles and recovered two and made two interceptions. He will be a rare four-year starter at Brentwood Academy. He also played fullback and had 800 yards and 26 touchdowns and as a ninth-grader he had a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the championship game.

Eric Stout is a 6-5, 270-pound guard for Cleveland, which has been the top program in the state the past three years. And Stout has been the top offensive lineman on that team in that period. He runs a 5.0 40 and graded 90 per cent as a junior. He's not far from the Tennessee campus and he's considering the Vols, Alabama and Georgia Tech.

Texas

Alabama has had moderate recruiting success in Texas since Texan Stallings returned to Alabama and the Tide is involved with several Texas prep stars.

Luke Nichols is considered to be the top offensive lineman in Texas. The 6-5, 270-pounder, who runs a 5.2 40, plays at Kelly High School in Beaumont. He has listed his top six schools (players may make official visits to five schools) as Alabama, Baylor, Colorado, Northwestern, Stanford and Texas.

The Tide is involved with two top linebackers at the same school. Both Josh Spoerl (6-2, 225, 4.6) and Christian Rodriguez (6-3, 220, 4.5) are rated among the nation's best players and they both play at North Mesquite, the highest-ranked team in the Lone Star State. Additionally, both have scheduled official visits to Alabama on January 10.

Spoerl had 179 tackles and 11 sacks as a junior. Through six games this year he had 88 tackles, three sacks and two passes broken up. He is also going to make an official visit to Notre Dame.

Rodriguez had 89 tackles and 12 sacks as a junior and is on pace to better those totals this year. He is also looking at Colorado, Nebraska and Syracuse.

Texas A&M is considered the in-state leader for both, but both are also thought to be leaning to leaving Texas for college.

Andre Pittman, a 6-4, 310-pound offensive lineman at Lamar High School in Houston is considered a power-drive blocker. He benches 380 and squats 510 and runs a 5.2 40. He has a long list of schools he is considering, including Alabama.

High school coaches are telling their top players to look at colleges with strong position coaches. That puts Alabama (with Mike Dubose) in good position with perhaps the number one player in the nation, defensive end David Warren (6-3, 235, 4.5) of John Tyler High School in Tyler. As a junior on the state championship team he averaged 2.5 sacks per game and finished with 147 tackles. As a tight end he had 48 catches for 672 yards. He's also considering Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor, Oklahoma and Ohio State.

Earlier this year Bama was thought to be involved with tight end Miles Koon (6-3, 250, 4.75) of Marcus High School in Flower Mound, but Koon suffered a sprained knee and is now thought to be headed to Texas A&M.

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1996 Alabama Football Opponents' Results

Team	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
BOWLING GREEN Falcons Bowling Green, Ohio	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 7-21	Temple 20-16	@ Miami (Ohio) 14-10	Central Michigan 31-27	@ Toledo 16-24	Kent 31-24	Ball State 11-16	@ Ohio 0-38	@ Akron 14-21	Western Michigan 13-16 (ot)	@ Central Florida 19-27			
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	@ Georgia 11-7	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 10-20	Utah State 31-24	Southwest Louisiana 52-27	@ Louisville 24-7	Oct. 10 @ East Carolina 28-7	Memphis 16-0	@ Tulane 31-28	Cincinnati 21-17	@ Houston 49-56 (ot)	@ Florida State 14-54			
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.		Sept. 5 Notre Dame 7-14	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 26-36	Ole Miss 9-20	@ LSU 0-35	@ North Texas 19-7	@ Georgia 2-13	South Carolina 0-27	Alabama- Birmingham 31-15	Florida 21-28	@ Kentucky 0-25	Tennessee 0-25		Tennessee
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.		SMU 10-23		ALABAMA (Little Rock) 7-17	Northeast Louisiana (Little Rock) 38-21	Florida 7-42	Louisiana Tech (Little Rock) 38-21	@ South Carolina 17-23	@ Auburn 7-28	Ole Miss 13-7	@ Tennessee 14-55	Tennessee 14-55	@ Mississippi State	LSU (Little Rock)
KENTUCKY Wildcats Lexington, Ky.	Louisville 14-38	@ Cincinnati 3-24		Indiana 3-0	@ Florida 0-65	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 7-35	South Carolina 14-25	@ LSU 14-41	Georgia 24-17	Mississippi State 24-21	Vanderbilt 25-0		@ Tennessee	
NORTH CAROLINA STATE Wolfpack Raleigh, N.C.		Georgia Tech 16-28		Sept. 19 Florida State 17-51	@ Purdue 21-42	@ Maryland 34-8	ALABAMA (Raleigh) 19-24	@ Virginia 14-62		@ North Carolina 20-52	Duke 44-22	@ Clemson 17-40	Wake Forest	@ East Carolina (Charlotte)
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Idaho State 38-14	VMI (Jackson) 31-7	Auburn 28-45	@ Vanderbilt 20-9	Oct. 3 Tennessee (Memphis) 3-41	Oct. 3 @ Ole Miss (Memphis) 41-3		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 0-37	Arkansas State 38-21		@ Arkansas 7-13	LSU 7-39	@ Georgia	Mississippi State
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Las Vegas- Nevada 62-3	UCLA 35-20		Florida 29-35	New Mexico State 63-7	Vanderbilt 35-0	@ Georgia 29-17	Kentucky 41-14	ALABAMA (Knoxville) 20-13	@ South Carolina 31-14	Memphis 17-21	Arkansas 55-14	Kentucky	Vanderbilt
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.		Houston 35-34		@ Auburn 19-15			@ Florida 13-56		Mississippi State 28-20		ALABAMA (Baton Rouge) 0-26	Ole Miss 39-7	Tulane	@ Arkansas (Little Rock)
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.		@ Memphis 31-10		Louisiana Tech 23-38	@ South Carolina 14-10	Georgia 19-38	Auburn 15-49		@ LSU 20-28	Northeast Louisiana 59-0	@ Kentucky 21-24	ALABAMA (Starkville) 17-16	Arkansas	@ Ole Miss
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Alabama- Birmingham 29-0	Fresno State 62-0	@ Ole Miss 45-28	LSU 15-19		South Carolina 28-24	@ Mississippi State 49-15	@ Florida 10-51		Arkansas 28-7	Northeast Louisiana 28-24	Georgia 49-56 (4 ot)	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 6:30 CST (ESPN)	

1996-97 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
99	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	86
79	BC Sibenik Croatia (Exh.)	70
Nov. 22-	Top of the World Classic	
Nov. 24	@ Fairbanks, Alaska	
Nov. 22	UNC-Wilmington	4:15
(Other participants: Baylor, Providence, Middle Tennessee, Montana, Southern Illinois, Alaska-Fairbanks)		
Nov. 30	Northeastern Illinois	7:00
Dec. 2	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7:00
Dec. 5	Minnesota	7:00
Dec. 7	@ Florida International	6:30
Dec. 14	Western Carolina	7:00
Dec. 18	North Texas	7:00
Dec. 21	Virginia Commonwealth @ Birmingham	1:50*
Dec. 27-	Cable Car Classic	
Dec. 28	@ San Jose, Calif.	
Dec. 27	San Jose State	10:00
Dec. 28	Santa Clara or Detroit Mercy	
Jan. 4	@ Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 8	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 11	Syracuse (CBS)	2:00
Jan. 15	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Florida	6:00
Jan. 22	South Carolina (JP)	7:00
Jan. 25	LSU	7:00
Jan. 28	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:30
Feb. 1	@ Mississippi State (JP)	12:00
Feb. 5	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 8	@ Tennessee (JP)	3:00
Feb. 12	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 15	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 19	Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 22	Auburn (SS)	4:00
Feb. 26	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
March 1	Mississippi State	7:00
March 6-	SEC Tournament	
March 9	@ Memphis	

*Alabama-VCU will tipoff 30 minutes after completion of Auburn-Murray State game, which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Times are central

JP-Jefferson Pilot SS-SportsSouth

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
116	Uralmash (Exh.)	45
	Hall of Fame Classic @ Stanford, Calif.	
65	Stanford (ESPN)	74
Nov. 21	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	7:00
	San Juan Shootout, San Juan, Puerto Rico	
Nov. 28	Arizona State	8:00
Nov. 29	Puerto Rico-Piedras	8:00
Dec. 1	Finals	
	Sheraton Capstone Inn Classic	
Dec. 6	Jackson State	8:00
Dec. 7	Lynn or Northwestern State	
	Holiday Beach Classic @ Conray, S.C.	
Dec. 18	Akron	5:00
Dec. 19	Penn State or Furman	8:00
Dec. 20	Finals	
	Miami Holiday Classic @ Coral Gables	
Dec. 27	Grambling State	5:00
Dec. 29	Miami or Butler	
Jan. 2	Oral Roberts	2:00
Jan. 5	Ole Miss	2:00
Jan. 7	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 10	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Jan. 15	@ Georgia (Prime TV)	6:00
Jan. 17	@ Oral Roberts	7:00
Jan. 22	Kentucky @ Cincinnati	4:30
Jan. 26	Tennessee (Prime TV)	2:00
Jan. 27	Jackson State	7:00
Feb. 1	@ LSU	1:00
Feb. 6	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 9	South Carolina (SS)	4:00
Feb. 11	Auburn	4:00
Feb. 16	@ Florida (Sunshine TV)	4:00
Feb. 18	@ UNC-Charlotte	6:00
Feb. 23	Vanderbilt (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament	
March 3	@ Chattanooga	

Times are central

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Men's Swimming & Diving

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
75	@ Northeast Louisiana	34
87	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	22
129	Florida	114
105.5	@ LSU	137.5
	Illinois Invitational	
112	Ball State	72
92	Southern Illinois	56
106	Missouri	60
93.5	Iowa	56.5
103	Northwestern	37
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Feb. 7	Auburn	6:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
Mar. 13-15	NCAA Zone Diving @ Auburn	
March 27-	NCAA Championships	
March 29	@ Minneapolis, Minn.	

Times are central

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	Meet The Team (Exh.)	7:00
Jan. 11	@ Penn State	6:00
Jan. 18	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	6:00
Feb. 1	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 7	Kentucky	7:00
Feb. 14	@ North Carolina State, New Hampshire, Kent	6:00
Feb. 28	@ Georgia	7:00
March 8	Michigan State, West Virginia, SE Missouri State	7:00
March 15	@ Auburn, Towson State	7:30
March 22	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	
April 5	NCAA Regionals @ Ann Arbor, Mich.	
April 17-	NCAA Championships	
April 19	@ Gainesville, Fla.	

Times are central

Women's Swimming & Diving

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
84	@ Northeast Louisiana	23
82	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	27
113	Florida	130
107	@ LSU	135
	Illinois Invitational	
121	Illinois State	44
99	Southern Illinois	49
109	Missouri	59
60	Northwestern	53
52	Illinois	61
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 26	Arkansas @ South Carolina	
Feb. 8	Auburn	11:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
March 13-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 15	@ Auburn	
March 20-	NCAA Championships	
March 22	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Times are central

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
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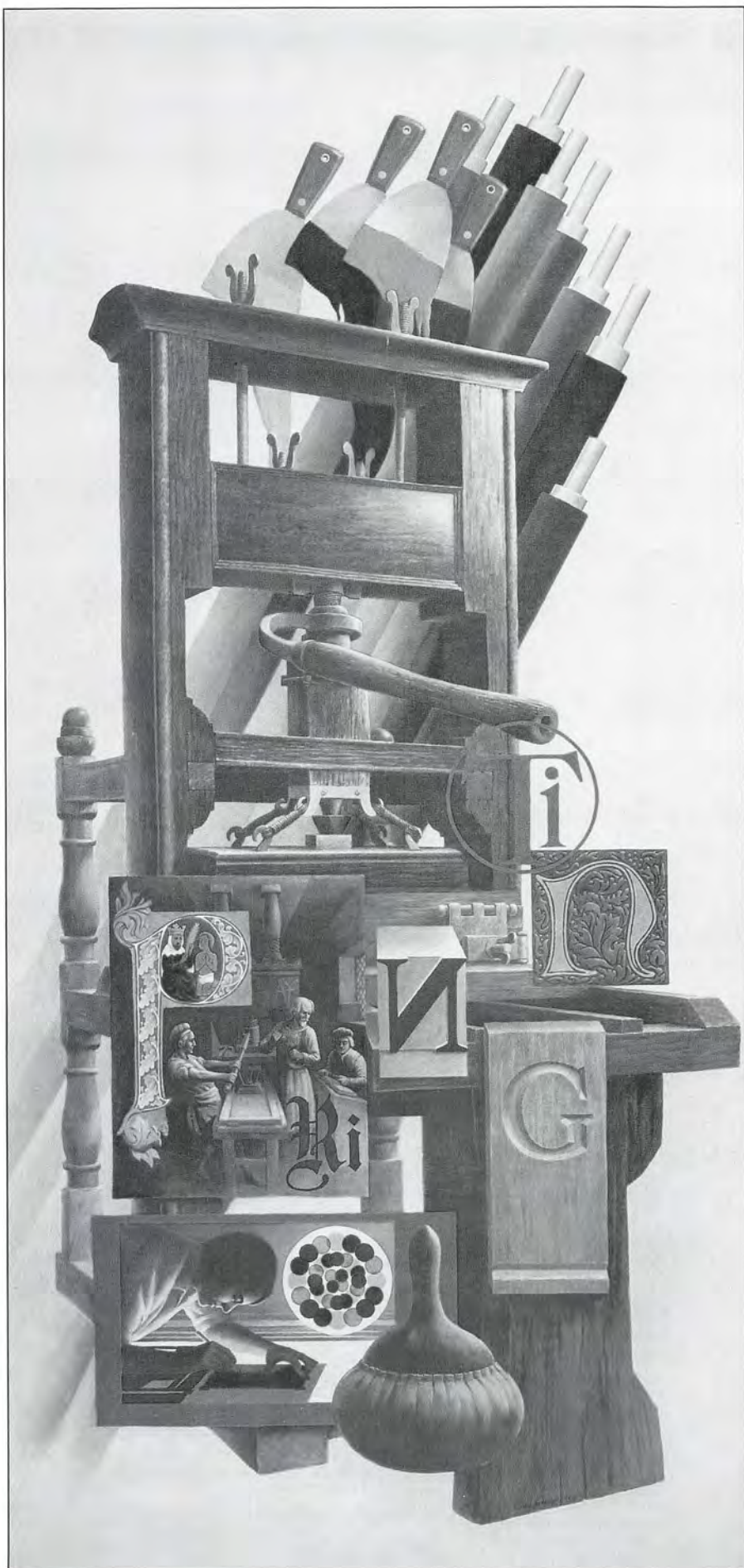
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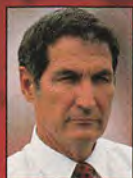
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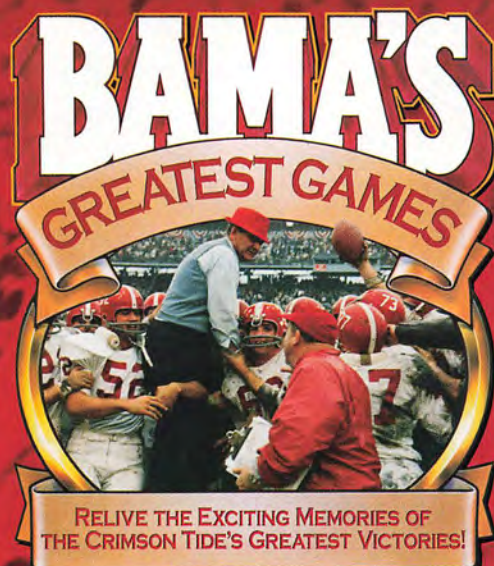
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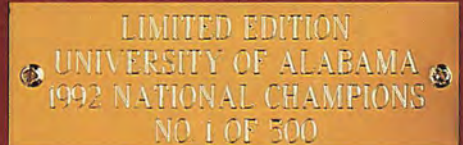
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